

Walz: “Compromise and common purpose is the glue that holds us together”

Washington, DC—Today, Congressman Tim Walz’s Motion to Instruct the Transportation Conference Committee to set aside their partisan differences and bring forward a robust, bipartisan transportation bill that will repair our crumbling roads and bridges, while creating jobs and growing our economy, passed the House by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 386 – 34.

While there is still more work to be done, passage of the bipartisan Walz motion is a major step forward towards finding common ground on a new highway bill.

“At a time when our competitors overseas are investing in smarter roads and faster trains, our infrastructure is crumbling. This is unacceptable,” said Walz. **“Compromise and common purpose is the glue that holds us together. And although there is still more work to do, passage of this Motion brings us one step closer towards finding a bipartisan solution and moving our country forward. The conference committee should now resolve their differences and bring forward a robust transportation bill that invests in a 21**

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century infrastructure system, creates American jobs, and allows our small businesses, construction workers, and communities the freedom to grow and prosper.”

Traditionally, transportation bills have been a place where Congress has worked together in bipartisan fashion to move our country forward. For the past 25 years, transportation bills have passed with overwhelming bipartisan support.

- In 2005, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) passed the House by a vote of 412 – 8 and the Senate by a vote of 91 – 4;
- In 1998, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) passed the House by a vote of 297 – 86 and the Senate by a vote of 88 – 5;
- In 1991, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) passed the House by a vote of 372 – 47 and the Senate by a vote of 79 – 8; And
- In 1987, the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act passed the House by a vote of 350 – 73 and passed the Senate by a vote of 67 – 33.

In that same bipartisan tradition, the Senate recently passed Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 74-22. A similar version of that bipartisan bill has 122 cosponsors in the House.

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